

Prisoner's Appeale  
UNTO HIS  
EXCELLENCIE  
The Lord  
Generall Cromwell.

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MATTH. 7. 12.

*Therefore whatsoever you would have others do unto you, do the same unto them; for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

PROV. 21. 21.

*He that followeth after righteousness and mercy, shall finde life, righteousness and glory.*

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By Captain WILLIAM BRAY, Prisoner in  
Windsor Castle.

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MAINTENANCE  
OF THE  
NAVY  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA  
IN  
THE  
YEAR  
1880  
BY  
JAMES W. BAY, PHILADELPHIA



## The Afflicted Prisoner's Appeal.

*My Lord,*

**I** Am necessitated to make my Application unto you from my Affliction, that so your Piety, Humanity, and Honor may appear, it being most noble to have tender Consideration of the afflicted; being agreeable to principles of Christianity, and also Reason, as *Plato* saith, *Is magnus qui rationi paret.* I have in these intestine Wars, and Forreign Designs, endeavored to preserve the Nation, and You in it, as well as my self, from any unlawful and revenging Designs of any whatsoever, which if I should ever hereafter suffer for under the hands of other Powers, yet I hope I should suffer with much peace of Conscience. And for matter of my contest, it hath been through an affection in me to desire the maintenance of the Publique Faith, and fundamental Principles of Government; and peradventure I might be much affected with my own wrongs and injuries, it being natural for humane Nature so to be; and therefore I hope it will move Your spirit to consider my condition. If I should not consider my own former wrongs and injuries before I was a Prisoner, yet I cannot but be much troubled to consider those extream provocations and insupportable pressures that I have had upon me here in Prison, exercised in much craft, power, malice, and design, beyond the Order of Law, Faith and Order of Parliament,

and the Scriptures of the Lord ; which hath tended unto my sad destruction, had not the mercy of the Lord been marvelously seen towards my preservation ; which behoves Your Honor and Wisdom to take notice of ; for if such things be suffered, then any Prisoners, committed by Order of Supreme Rulers, or Governors, may be ruined, and destroyed, most illegally, barbarously, nefariously, and irreligiously, by subordinate men in Power, which may be of an unspeakable evil consequence, to the prejudice and danger of any State, as well as to the barbarous destruction of the innocent, (whom God is very tender of,) and the subversion of humane Society: For imprisonment in the Law is and must be onely for Custody till Tryal ; *Custodia & non Pœna*, for *Carcer ad homines custodiendos, non ad puniendos dari debet* ; Lord Cook *Inst. fo. 259. Sect. 4; 8. lib. 3.* And the Parliament in their first Remonstrance, in their primitive purity, and declaring for the Rights of the People, against those corruptions that were under Monarchy ( whereby they engaged many of the people for them) said, That the Blood of Sir *John Elliot*, who dyed by cruel and unlawful endurance in Prison, did cry for vengeance: And I do beleeve, and also hope, that unless God give Colonel *Whitcheot*, and his corrupted, hypocritical Priesthood (here (whom the Lord rebuke) Repentance, they will finde experimentally, there is a God that judgeth the Earth ; And let them know, that it is but a meer cloke, colour, pretence, and hypocrisie (the greatest of sins) to pretend Religion, Scripture, Ordinances, and Christ, where there is a maintaining of oppression and loathsome unjustifiable corruption, and corrupting of Powers and Authorities, to their prejudice, as well as the peoples ; For where

Religion



Religion, Scripture, Ordinances, are truly owned, there cruelty and provoking oppression is most hated and loathed. And indeed the corrupted Priesthood were the onely instrumental cause, why *Sigismund* the Emperor did break his Faith to *John Hus*, that famous Martyr, onely because he did oppose their abominable hypocrisie and enmity to Christian Truth and natural Reason, as the history of the Martyrs doth plainly shew forth; And that fact of the destruction of *John Hus* did tend to the destruction of *Sigismund* and his family; And truly, if I should speak my conscience, and declare all those probable Reasons and Presumptions (as well as Proofs) I do beleieve it will appear to all rational men, that it hath been the design of some men here in this Castle (whose names and actions I shall relate in due season, if the Lord will) what by private insinuations, and what by their cruelties and designs upon me, to provoke me, that so through my provocations and passions You may be engaged against me, and may be at a greater distance with me, and I with You; and that so thereby they may the more smoothly, craftily, and insensibly carry on my ruine, and escape for all their wickedness exercised towards me, against the Faith and Order of Parliament, Law, and most renowned Scriptures of God, which requires your consideration in seriousness and Justice. And you know it is said in the Scriptures of the Lord, *Psa. 125. 3. The rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous, lest the righteous put forth their hands to iniquity.* Truly I have been provoked extreamly in my afflictions, and my provocations hath caused many sad temptations in my Soul. When I have considered how affectionately and actually I have (though peradventure with much imperfection

fection) fought the safety of my Country, and you in it,  
 as well as my own safety, and how by it I am in danger  
 also of the Revenges and Judgment of others ; this thing  
 hath much afflicted me. Secondly, When I consider  
 how barbarously I have been dealt with under such that  
 have appeared oppressingly under former interests, and  
 (apparently) are not conscientious to the truth ; where-  
 as I can say in singleness of spirit, (though I were to  
 suffer death of other interests in so doing,) I have sought  
 your preservation against the corruptions and evil ap-  
 pearances of others, which may be is judged as a capital  
 crime in some mens thoughts ; and if I did dissent from  
 you in my Judgment in any thing, yet to tell you truly  
 and ingenuously, it was out of affections unto the Li-  
 berties of my Country, and to endeavor to keep a good  
 Conscience, rather then any appetite I had to rejoyce in  
 your destruction: and truly the insupportableness, barbar-  
 ousness and cruelty of my afflictions here, being contrary  
 to such glorious Principles and Rules, and I beleeve be-  
 yond what you can conceive ; hath much transported me  
 so, as to write somewhat highly against you, but your  
 Christian Principles and nobilitie of mind will rather  
 take notice of my great affliction, then of any weakness  
 and passion, occasioned by such barbarous oppressions  
 upon me : I hope these things will be great Motives to  
 your Christian, and rationally principles ; as my provo-  
 cations were great so my temptations were many, some-  
 times it was to destroy my self as *Cleombrotus* did, but  
 God proved Conquerour in my soul ( it being against  
 Christianity and reason) praised be his Name for his  
 Grace towards me ; sometimes tempted to desire, That  
 (if I might not have an impartial speedy Tryal) the Par-  
 liament would destroy me in the days and principles of  
 mine

mine innocency, but the Lord overcame this also, for if it was unlawful, and sinful, to destroy my self, so it was to desire any other to do it; for in such a fact, both would answer for the sin unto the righteous Judg: But this, as I beleev'd it to be sinful, so I thought it rather would be offensive unto you to propound any such thing, it being I hope hatefull to your soul; but these things did peirce my soul, and the Lord hath I hope wholly overcome it, and made me rather willing to bear and suffer any evil, then impatiently desire any thing sinful, to fulfil my own or others passions, or to free me from afflictions.

And let me in much affliction, and in all truth; humility and resolution, tell you, that sithence I have been so barbarously dealt with here, beyond what I am confident you can conceive, (for I have never yet declared the full and horrid nature thereof,) contrary to Law, Scriptures, of the Lord, Faith, and Order of Parliament: I had rather be cut in a thousand pieces at the feet of such a Tyrant, a Violator of Law, a Persecutor of Innocency, and an Abuser of Government, then live a Slave, to the insupportable unlimited lust of such a one: And therefore I do humbly and earnestly (in the Name of the Lord Christ, (the highest moving argument that tongue can express, or heart conceive,) and by those bowels of compassions that are in him) desire that my weak nature may be no more provoked, and that occasions of temptation, and sinning against the Lord, and offending you, may be nobly taken away by you, and that you would shew your self a Lover of the Lord, a Lover of Truth, *Pater Patria*, a True Father of your Country, and a Refuge to the afflicted, according to the Principles of Conscience and Honour.

First

First, That I may have a legal free, certain, speedy, and impartial Tryal, according to the essential and fundamental Laws of the Commonwealth, and the Faith and Oath of Parliament, and Declarations and Faith of the Army, before I was a Prisoner; And let me Sir in all humility and boldness say, that if I cannot justify my self by the Laws of God, the Laws and Liberties of my Country, and the Declarations and Faith of Parliament and Army, I will willingly suffer any thing that can be inflicted upon me.

Secondly, In case this be not assigned me, and granted me speedily, that I may have my speedy freedom from my bonds; and I hope you shall find that the Lord will dispose me to temperance and sobriety, and order my spirit to acknowledg your Justice and Honour: And I also hope, that I desire nothing that is dishonorable, but honorable ( in the Judgment of Christians and men ) for you to promote and grant.

So addressing my self unto you ( again ) in the Name of the Lord Christ, I commit my Cause, precious Liberties, and Life-blood, unto the Almighty, just and merciful Lord of Heaven and Earth, and to the Consideration of your Excellency, and rest,

*August 20. 1651. being  
full two years and five  
Moneths of my Imprisonment.*

Your Excellencies Servant

in Affliction, Weakness,

and Captivity.

*William Bray.*

F I N I S.